

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 12-15 were pending. Initially, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claim 14. The rejections of remaining claims, numbers 1, 12-13 and 15, are respectfully asserted to be moot in view of this paper.

In particular, claims 1, 12, 13 and 15 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. In addition, claim 14 was amended for clarity. This amendment was not made for any substantial reason related to patentability (i.e., §§ 102 and 103). Also, new claims 16-23 are added by this amendment. Support for these amendments is found throughout the specification. No new matter will be added to this application by entry of these amendments.

In addition, paragraphs 3, 29, 36-38 and 40 are amended to correct matters of form and for consistency.

Also, Figure 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are amended. Figures 1 and 3 have been amended to show the information supply apparatus (e.g., computer). This feature is supported by the entire specification as originally filed, including in particular paragraph [0036]. Also, Figures 4-6 were amended to add the legend "Prior Art." No new matter will be added by these amendments.

Allowance of this application is requested.

Appl. No. 10/647,630
Paper dated March 1, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated December 1, 2003

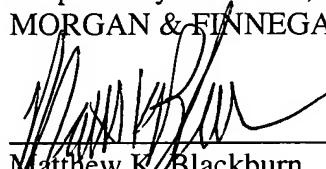
CONCLUSION

This application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-4846US1.

Respectfully submitted,
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